# Biomarkers in Langerhans cell histiocytosisassociated neurodegeneration A model for CNS Erdheim-Chester Disease?

#### September 14, 2016, 2016

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# CNS LCH: Pituitary & Brain





#### **ECD** Pituitary and Brain Involvement

T1 Post Contrast



T2 FLAIR



# LCH-ND

- 4-10% of all LCH patients
- Ataxia, dysarthria, dysmetria, behavioral changes or learning disabilities
- Months to years after presumed cure
- MRI: cerebellum, basal ganglia, pons, dentate nuclei
- Pathophysiology
  - Autoimmune?
  - Paraneoplastic ?
  - Other?



#### What is known about Etiology of ND-LCH?

- Not much
- Limited tissues to investigate: results published on 12 specimens
- Limited reagents used: CD1a, CD8, CD4, CD68
- No CD1a+ cells
- Prominent CD8+ infiltration
- Neuronal and axonal degeneration
- Secondary myelin loss
- Pathologic cells migrate from craniofacial bones/circumventricular organ to CSF, brain?

#### ND-LCH Cerebellum

N. Grois,, D. Prayer, H. Prosch & H. Lassman Neuropathology of CNS Disease in LCH. *Brain* 2005



# Hypotheses

- Pathologic LCH cells and inflammatory cells secrete proteins creating unique CSF protein profiles
- Using BRAF V600E as a marker of pathologic LCH cells it may be possible to trace origin of and course of ND-LCH

# Objectives

- Evaluation of biomarkers in patients with CNS manifestations of LCH
  - Define pathophysiology
  - Differentiate LCH from other CNS tumors
  - Develop Strategies Predict Development of LCH-ND
- Identify optimal treatment strategies

# Patient Demographics n=40



### Methods

- Proteomics assay of CSF: 142 analytes using a Luminex platform Bio-informatic analysis to find best markers
- qPCR assay for *BRAF*V600E-mutated cells in CSF and blood
- Immuno-staining of brain sections for LCH cells, mutated BRAF protein, S100B, CD3
- qPCR of brain tissue for CD207 and Osteopontin

# OPN and S100B in CSF



# Distinguishing LCH-ND vs ND controls



S100B



## Combinations of proteins differentiate ND-LCH from Controls



#### Sensitivity 0.725, Specificity 0.759, Overall accuracy 75%



Sensitivity 0.975, Specificity 0.68, Overall accuracy 86%



Sensitivity 0.750, Specificity 0.763, Overall accuracy 76%

## Circulating BRAF-V600E in LCH



### BRAF-V600E cells in CSF of LCH-ND



## Circulating BRAF-V600E cells in LCH-ND



## Circulating BRAF-V600E cells in LCH-ND



# LCH (Lymph Nade

Acute LCH ND (LCH060)



CD207



(LCH059)

VE-1

Immunohistochemistry

OPN











S100B

# *BRAF-V600E* and OPN Expression by qPCR In Brain Tissue from Various Locations



## Proposed Model of LCH-ND



#### Clinical Response to Treatment with BRAF-inhibitors



# Conclusions

- Osteopontin is a reliable marker of LCH CNS Involvement
- Identification of circulating and "brain-resident" BRAF-V600E mutated cells suggests they play a major role in neurodegeneration
- Targeted therapy for BRAF or other MAP kinase genes is likely the best option for LCH patients with neurodegeneration
- Investigation of ECD patients with CNS involvement is warrented

# Acknowledgments

#### Histiocytosis Program:

Allen Lab Members Alice Solomon, BS Baruch Goldberg, MD Brooks Scull, MS Elmoataz Fattah, MD **Ernesto Joubran**, BS Harshal Abhyankar, MS Karen Lim, MS Joseph Lubega, MD Olive Eckstein, MD Walter Olea Thomas Burke, BS

#### **TXCH Cancer Genomics**

Will Parsons, MD, PhD Oliver Hampton, PhD **Bioinformatics** 

#### **Bioinformatics**

Chris Man, PhD Howard Lin

#### **Baylor Epidemiology Group**

Philip Lupo, PhD Erin Peckham, PhD **Clinical Coordinator Team** Munu Bilgi Elizabeth Pacheco Maria Diaz Linna Zhang, PhD

# Circulating WBCs Harbor *BRAF-V600E* Mutation in High Risk LCH



				ALL		Brain Tumor		ND		HLH
Gender	Male	26		14		12		28		6
	Female	14		15		13		8		3
	Unknown	-		-		-		2		-
	0-3	1		5		7		2		1
Age	3-18	29 10		24 -		18		14		8
	>18					-		2		-
Subtype		ND 10 ND + Pit 18 Pit 12	Induction Consolidation Maintenance Other	2 1 15 11	Medulloblastoma Meningeal Sarcoma Ependymoma Astrocytoma Germinoma Craniopharyngioma ATRT Pineal Mass	13 1 3 2 2 1 2 1 2 1	X-LALD Alzheimer's Multiple Sclerosis Parkinson's Batten Dx Multi-organ Failure Other	10 15 3 6 2 1 1	_	
Total		40		29		25		38		9

# **Clinical Courses**

Persistence of BRAF-V600E in Circulating White Blood Cells



Time from Date of Diagnosis (Years)

## Multiple Sub-fractions Harbor BRAF-V600E

		T-Cells	B-Cells	Macs	Mono/KN	DC Precursor	Meyloid DC	Neg Fraction
MB Number	BRAF % Unsorted	CD3	CD19	CD64	CD16	CD11c	CD11c + CD14	CD11c- CD14-
LCH028	0.08	Yes						
LCH023	0.04						Yes	
LCH014	0.17				Yes	Yes		
LCH006	0.03	Yes						
LCH013	<0.02	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	
LCH015	<0.02							
LCH022	0.04				Yes			
LCH040	0.02		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes

# Misguided Myeloid Dendritic Cell Model



Zinn et al. Oncology. 2016